Montana State Library
3 0864 1006 6569 7

MONTANA SCHOOLS

Official News Publication of the
Superintendent of Public Instruction

HARRIET MILLER
Superintendent

Vol. 5, No. 1 September 1, 1961

PEOPLE . . .

Homer V. Loucks, formerly Superintendent of Schools at Malta, joined the Department of Public Instruction in June as Director of Instructional Services, a position formerly held by William L. Erickson who now serves as Deputy State Superintendent. For the coming year, Loucks will serve also as State Supervisor of Elementary Schools, succeeding Robert G. Sando, who was drowned in May while on a Canadian fishing trip.

Max Amberson becomes Supervisor of Agriculture Education in the Department of Public Instruction this month, succeeding A. W. Johnson who retired in July. Amberson, a Montana State College graduate, formerly taught vocational agriculture at Whitehall; most recently he has been Assistant Director of Agriculture Education for the F. H. Peavey Company of Minneapolis.

Palmer M. Scott, Dillon teacher, comes to the Department of Public Instruction this year on a leave of absence from the Dillon schools to serve as Assistant to the Director of Instructional Services. Scott formerly taught at Saco.

Mary Bahn, Malta high school senior and Girls' State Superintendent of Public Instruction, served on July 25 as State Superintendent For A Day, at the invitation of State Superintendent Harriet Miller.

DATES . . .

September 17-23 -- Constitution Week. Proclaimed by the President of the United States, Constitution Week begins with Constitution Day, September 17, designated by Montana law as a day for all schools to conduct appropriate exercises in commemoration of the signing of the Constitution of the United States on September 17, 1787. Especially appropriate ... programs emphasizing individual responsibility for the preservation of the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.

November 5-7 -- Northwest Regional Drive-In Conference at Spokane. Headquarters ... Hotel Davenport. Theme ... "The Superintendent Meets the Problems of Curriculum Change."

December 4-7 -- Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools' annual meeting at Seattle. Headquarters ... Olympic Hotel.

March 26-28 -- Superintendent of Public Instruction's Annual Conference of School Administrators at Helena. General sessions, March 26-27. Special program for County Superintendents, March 28. Business meeting of Montana Association of County Superintendents, March 27.

AVAILABLE . . .

Guide For The Montana School Health Program, second edition, 1961, now available at $4.50 per copy from the State Board of Health, Helena, is endorsed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and is recommended to teachers and administrators. The Guide includes current scientific information, reference and resource information, and teaching helps for all grade levels.

1961 Montana School Laws, containing all laws enacted by the Legislature through 1961 which directly affect schools, with a new, comprehensive index designed especially for use by school officials, is available at $7.00, including mailing charges. Copies should be ordered from the Department of Public Instruction, with payment accompanying the order.

CONTESTS AND AWARDS . . .

The 27th Annual National High School Writing Contest, sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, offers a first prize of $1,000 and several other large prizes for essays by high school students. This year's theme: "America the Beautiful -- How Long Without Clean Water?" The contest is approved by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Note: For the last two years, Montana has had a national winner in this contest. Details from local Auxiliary chairmen, or from V.F.W. Auxiliary, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City 11, Mo.

Freedom Foundation Awards deadline is November 1. Schools will receive application blanks directly from the Foundation at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS . . .

Eastern Montana College of Education at Billings will have two National Science Foundation programs this fall. A mathematics and physical science program for junior high school and senior high school teachers will begin September 27 for a fifteen-week period, two and one-half hours per week. Costs will be borne by participants. Details from Dr. George Gloege, Eastern Montana College of Education.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES . . .

On August 16, Foreign Language Supervisor Lester McKim sent a bulletin to administrators listing tape recordings now available to schools, with instructions for obtaining them. Please note . . . Schools using the Bell and Howell Specialist AV-1, or other tape recorders built for single-track recording, should send twice the number of tapes specified.

THE FOUNDATION PROGRAM . . .

Superintendent of Public Instruction Harriet Miller recently notified County Superintendents that state support for this year's foundation program will be somewhat below the level of recent years. Official estimates place the 1961-62 state equalization level at 89%, compared with 94% last year . . . Interest and income payments to schools from state lands also are expected to drop, from $19.55 last year to an estimated $18 . . . The 89% equalization level is the lowest since the foundation program began in 1949; the interest and income payment, the lowest in ten years. Reason? "More pupils and less money," said Miss Miller.

THORSEN'S
HELENA